



The Home Department

Conducted by
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My City of Refuge.

I have a city that is all my own,
Where I can enter in and be alone;
A strange, still city, where no traffic
beats,
With noise and rattle, through its
golden streets.

When hate and envy and the ills of
life
Beset my pathway with their bitter
strife,
I lift my curtain, and I ope my door,
And they exist for me no more, no
more.

I am the monarch of my kingdom
wide,
I, too, the subject that doth here
abide;
There is no other of a mortal race
Can find an entrance to this blessed
place.

Its gate is hung upon a silver hinge,
And set with pearls of opalescent
tinge;
Its walks are bordered with the rose
and fern,
And tall white lillies in the shadows
burn.

There is a fountain where the waters
laugh
Like merry children, and I sit and
quaff
From their blue goblets of its nectar
sweet;
My life is perfect in its dim retreat.

I have a garden that is red with
bloom,
The air is languorous with its rare per-
fume;
The feathered songsters in the
branches trill
At my good pleasure; at my wish are
still.

I am not lonely; when I choose to
call,
My nymphs come trooping to my crys-
tal hall;
The dome of azure opens wide for me,
And pale ships enter from a wave-
less sea.

This is my refuge. And the world
must wait,
Howe'er 'twould enter, when I close
my gate.
There mosque and temple lift a shin-
ing thole,
In my white city of the Peaceful Soul.
—Isabel Richey, in *The Dial*.

Home Chats.

Now that the winter days are wan-
ing, there are many things to engage
the attention of every member of the
household. Among others of import-
ance, do not forget to clean up the
yards, back and front, and to make
your premises as neat and tasty in
appearance as possible. If you can-
not paint your fences and outhouses,
a good whitewash will clean and dis-
infect, while the shrubbery should be
neatly pruned and cared for. If you
have no shrubbery, and have any
ground at all, it is a good time to
study the catalogues, and read up on
such things. Nothing gives such an
appearance of real home to a place, in
city, village or country, as a few well
cared for plants and neat, well re-
paired and painted or even white-
washed outbuildings. Don't leave the
work for "mother" to do; for mother
has the whole internal economy of
the home and household to look af-
ter; surprise her by doing it yourself,

and see if you do not feel better for
it.

If you are intending to have a sum-
mer kitchen built, do not make the
mistake of having it built away from
the main house—no matter how short
a distance. From a separate kitchen
to the house in all weathers is a dan-
gerous journey for the overheated
cook; the added steps count up very
fast, and the housewife hardly stands
in need of any more. In having the
outhouse closely joined to the main
building, there will be no extra screen
doors to be opened when serving the
meal with both hands full of dishes.
If proper care is exercised in keeping
the door between shut in summer weath-
er, the heat will not reach the din-
ing room to a troublesome degree,
while the extra heat from the range
on cool damp mornings will be quite
acceptable. In such matters as these
the housewife should be consulted, as
this is her province. In building any
house or room for the family occu-
pancy, the wife should have a very
strong "say-so."

For the Bed Room.

Cotton sheeting and pillow-slip mus-
lin can be bought at a low price by
the bolt of about fifty yards, and
where there is time for home-sewing
this is a good way to supply one's
needs. Each sheet should be two and
one-half yards long, the hem at one
end being a little broader than at the
other. A finish for pillow slips for
every-day usage may have a hem an
inch or two wide with a cluster of
tucks above it; or they may be hem-
stitched, with a finish of wash-lace
sewn on the hem. While not a ne-
cessity, a counterpane and pillow
shams always give the bed a well-
made appearance, and these are eas-
ier washed than quilts or heavy pil-
low-slips. The shams may be elab-
orately wrought in embroidery, or as
simply made as one may desire, but
they should always be clean and un-
rumped.

Pretty scarfs may be used on the
wash-stand and bureau, or merely
doileys upon which to set the neces-
sary furnishings. For ordinary, tow-
elling material can be cheaply bought
by the yard, always keeping in mind
the fact that the best for the pur-
pose is the cheapest in the long run,
though costing a few cents more at
the first. If bought by the yard or
bolt, it can be made into the desired
lengths, hem-stitched or fringed, but
the fringed towel soon gets "taggy"
or ragged, if constantly used. Fine
towelling may be elaborately embroi-
dered, fancy-stitched, or simply marked
with a monogram or letter.

In supplying the bed furnishings,
one should include with the toilet
necessities a supply of wash-cloths,
neatly hemmed, button-hole edged, or
with raw edges overcast to prevent
ravelling, and supplied with a loop
by which to hang them up.

Do not neglect to air bedding, as
well as bed-room as often as possible,
if only by opening the doors and win-
dows. But the outer air and sunshine
is the best.

Old Coffee Grounds.

An authority on hygienic subjects
has this to say: "Perhaps no other
agency is responsible for so many dis-
ordered stomachs as the reprehensible
habit of some cooks of reboiling cof-
fee grounds. Coffee boiled a second
time, or even boiled too long a first
time, imparts to the liquid a tannic

acid which is an active poison. First,
buy the green berry and brown in a
closely covered pan—not too dark, but
a little darker than that usually sold.
That sold in the stores has lost much
of its strength and flavor by exposure
to the air. Immediately after browned
grind the whole of it and place in
closely-stoppered bottles. To use,
place sufficient quantity in the boiler
and pour on cold water; set on the
stove, and the moment it starts to
boil, pour in a cup of very cold water;
this settles it, and the liquid should
be immediately poured off the grounds
and the grounds thrown away. Two
or three times a week, scrub out the
boiler with soap and sand, or ashes,
and set in the open air. The liquid
can be kept hot, or reheated without
injury. If you value your health, do
not use coffee grounds a second time,
and do not boil them more than a
minute, if so long."

Tea leaves impart to hot water a
more active poison than coffee, and
to have tea entirely harmless, pour
boiling water on the leaves; as soon
as the last tea-leaf sinks to the bot-
tom, pour off the liquid and throw
the leaves away. Be sure that the
water is fresh-boiled, and boiling hot
when poured on the leaves.

New Books.

New books have been appearing at
the rate of a hundred or more a
week; but the great mass of these
books are ephemera—shallow and
short-lived. Publishers complain that
the public appetite is vitiated to such
a degree that the demand runs far
too strongly in the direction of medi-
ocre fiction; trashy novels hold su-
premacy, while belles-lettres lag in
the background. The majority of our
readers use books only to "kill time,"
and one is led to think that our
youth is troubled with a mental dys-
pepsia, judging from the constant
craving for the sensational, and the
hurried skimming through the many
books that fall into their hands. A
few books, well chosen, closely read
and mentally assimilated, would be
greatly to the advantage of both our
old people and our youth. But our
best books are seldom taken from the
shelves, while on every chair and win-
dow ledge can be found the cheap,
trashy novel, the reading of which
seems only to whet the appetite for
more of the same kind. Who is to
blame?

Table Linen.

Especially in the matter of table
linen, the best is the cheapest, and
the most satisfactory. Good damask
table-cloths and napkins far outwear
the cheaper grades, and the Scotch
damask is considered the best, al-
ways commanding a good price,
though much may be saved by watch-
ing the special sales. A poor quality
of linen betrays itself at once, and no
amount of starch and fine laundering
will enable it to appear as anything
better than it really is. An indiffer-
ent laundress soon makes sad work
of it.

In choosing the damask, a medium-
sized figure, rather than large figures
or stripes, should be chosen, as the
small figures will always look well,
and fashion does not affect it so much.
In making the cloth up, all hemming
should be done by hand, and the long
ravellings pulled out to make a
straight edge when cut into lengths,
should be saved for the hemming; fine
embroidery cotton should be used
rather than ordinary sewing thread,

if there are no ravellings, or for
mending in older cloths.

By getting remnants, one can get a
supply of small cloths to be used for
luncheon, or for tray cloths, at a
small cost. When old table linen
shows signs of becoming thin, it
should be cut into tray cloths, nap-
kins, or otherwise used in ways that
will suggest themselves to the eco-
nomically inclined housewife.

Many women are now using for
breakfast, luncheon or small family
dinner, the small cloth, called a tea-
cloth, which just covers the top of the
table; these cloths may be finished
with rows of drawn-work, or a deep
hem-stitched hem. The cloths come
with a fringed edge, but fringed edges
soon become taggy-looking as the
fringe wears or breaks off in laund-
ring. A monogram or initial adds a
finishing touch, worked in one corner
or at one side of the center.

Query Box.

Mrs. N. L.—To make your tough
meat tender, let it stay in the water
in which it was boiled until cold.

Distressed.—Moth patches are the
result of a disordered liver. The liver
must be relieved before you can be
rid of them.

Flower Lover.—Look in the adver-
tising columns for addresses of firms.
The parties are reliable, and will
treat your order right.

Laundress.—To keep your flat-irons
from rusting, rub them with a cloth
saturated in coal oil after using, and
keep them in a dry place.

F. M.—Coal oil will clean the rubber
rollers of your wringer; rub with a
rag saturated in the oil and wipe dry
with a dry cloth when clean.

Busy-Bee.—Alcohol will take the ink
off the cylinder of your typewriter,
and clean the rubber rollers from the
stain. Apply with cloth, and wipe
dry.

Puzzled Hostess.—I believe it is to
be the rule with St. Louis hostesses to
furnish only lodging and breakfast
to their guests in general; of course
there will be exceptions.

L. J.—After washing the hands, dry
perfectly, and then rub thoroughly
with cornmeal, before going into the
cold air. For brittle finger nails rub
the nails with a few drops of warm
olive oil every night.

Housewife.—An under-cover of felt
or flannel is used on the dining-room
table to preserve the polish and dead-
en the sound of dishes. It should be
covered by a tea or table-cloth, which
should be unstarched and uncreased.

Anxious.—It is said that sal soda
in solution, applied to blackheads ev-
ery night for two weeks, will general-
ly remove them. Keep the soda in a
bottle, ready dissolved, for use. If
the skin begins to get chafed with its
use, rinse it off every morning with
a little cider vinegar.

Young Cook.—For carrot salad,
wash and scrape a sufficient quantity
of tender, rich-colored roots, throw
them into fast-boiling water and boil
until tender. Cut into very thin slices
and put them into a glass bowl; sprin-
kle with sugar; add the juice of a
lemon and a wine-glass of olive oil.

L. J. H.—For papering a celled room
first cover the walls with a coating of
good paste, then put lengths of cheap
muslin on the wood as you would
the wall paper, tacking it on at the
end and along the selvage edges; let
the muslin get perfectly dry and then
paste on the wall-paper as you would
on any wall.

Querist.—To rid the house of insect
pests of any kind, dissolve one pound
of common alum in two quarts of hot
water; when thoroughly dissolved, ap-
ply hot to the shelves, in pantry and
cupboard, closets, cellar, or any other
infested place about the house. For
bedsteads and springs, apply so the

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